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fr. Greenw.) eastwards, including Chukchi land and Anadyr River (and evidently Alaska), wintering in China.

WESENBERG, ESTHONIA,  
RUSSIA, Oct. 17, 1907.

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## THE GENERIC NAMES *MYCTERIA* AND *TANTALUS* OF LINNÆUS, 1758.

BY J. A. ALLEN.

THE genera *Mycteria* and *Tantalus* of Linnæus, as originally founded (Syst. Nat., ed. X, 1758, p. 140), were both monotypic, *Mycteria* having the single species *M. americana*, and *Tantalus* the single species *T. loculator*. *Mycteria* (No. 74) has precedence, standing above *Tantalus* (No. 75) on the same page. The names *Mycteria americana* and *Tantalus loculator* both unfortunately relate to the same species, as long since pointed out by Lichtenstein, and later by others.

*Mycteria americana* Linn. has for its sole basis Marcgrave's *Jabiru-guacu*, which Lichtenstein states (Abhandl. Berlin Akad. Wiss., Phys. Kl., 1816-1817 [1819], p. 163), on the basis of the original manuscript and drawings, "ist *Tantalus Loculator*, den die Figur auf p. 200 vorstellt." *Tantalus loculator* is based on the Wood Pelican (*Pelecanus sylvestris* on the plate) of Catesby's 'Carolina.' As explained by Lichtenstein, and as is evident on inspection, Marcgrave's figures on pages 200 and 201 of his 'Historiæ rerum Naturalium Brasilæ' are transposed, so that his figure of the Jabiru is placed on p. 201, in the text relating to the Jabiru-guacu, and the figure of the latter in the text relating to the Jabiru. Linnæus makes no reference to the Jabiru, which Lichtenstein here (*l. c.*) named *Ciconia mycteria*, its first tenable systematic designation. Linnæus was thus misled into identifying the figure of the Jabiru as that of the Jabiru-guacu, he evidently basing his generic diagnosis on the wrongly placed figure of the Jabiru and his specific diagnosis on the description of the Jabiru-guacu, which is the Wood Ibis, his *Tantalus loculator*.

In accordance with universal custom, the amended Article 30 of the International Code of Nomenclature provides: "A genus proposed with a single original species takes that species as its type." Hence the type of *Mycteria*, regardless of the generic diagnosis, is *M. americana*, based on the Jabiru-guacu of Marcgrave, the Wood Ibis, of which, by virtue of its position on the same page, *Tantalus loculator* is a synonym. The proper name of the Wood Ibis is therefore *Mycteria americana*. The Jabiru being thus nameless, so far as Linnæus is concerned, must bear the generic name *Jabiru*, provided for it by Hellmayr in 1906 (Abhandl. d. K. Bayer. Akad. der Wiss., II Kl., XXII, Abt. 3, 1906, p. 711), and the specific name *mycteria*, given it by Lichtenstein (*l. c.*) in 1819 = *Jabiru mycteria* (Licht.) Hellm.

Marcgrave's *Jabiru brasiliensis* is a large bird, with the bill eleven inches long and the legs two feet long, and entirely white, with the head, and also the neck for eight inches, naked, the skin black for the upper half and white for the lower half.

His Jabiru-guacu is a smaller bird, the size of a stork, with the bill seven and a half inches long and the legs about fourteen inches long; there is a bony mitre or crown on the top of the head; the neck is ten inches long, the upper half of which, together with the head, is not covered with feathers but with a scaly gray skin, the scales being whitish. It is also a white bird, with the tail and wing-quills black with a purplish gloss. Linnæus's *Mycteria americana* is described as: "Magnitudo Ciconiæ, alba, remigibus rectricibusque nigro-purpurascens." Evidently this is based on Marcgrave's "caudam habet brevem et nigram," and "Alæ albæ, remiges illarum pennæ nigræ, rubino colore transplendente in nigro," in his description of the Jabiru-guacu.

The Jabiru-guacu has sometimes<sup>1</sup> been identified with the Maguari, *Euxenura maguari* (Gmel.), which has, however, a feathered and not a naked head and neck, and no horny shield on the head; but in size, and in the coloration of the wings and tail, the birds are similar; but 'tail short' applies better to the former (or Wood Ibis) than to the latter, and the bill is curved (shown in Marcgrave's figure), as in the Wood Ibis, and not straight and stork-like, as in the Maguari.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Ridgway, Bull. U. S. Geol. and Geogr. Survey Terr. (Hayden), IV, 1878, 250; Berlepsch, Journ. f. Orn., 1887, 32.